

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
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AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MPOL, MNUC, PARM, GW
SUBJECT: GERMAN PRESS STATEMENT ON THE GENSCHER TRIP
AND THE NEUTRON WEAPON

1. ON APRIL 5, THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN, KLAUS
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BOELLING, MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT TO THE PRESS ON
FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER'S RECENT TRIP TO WASHINGTON
AND ON THE NEUTRON WEAPON.

BEGIN TEXT (INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION):

I WANTED TO CONFIRM TO YOU THAT THE GERMAN FOREIGN

MINISTER AND VICE CHANCELLOR RETURNED FROM HIS TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES ABOUT ONE HOUR BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF THE CABINET MEETING AND GAVE THE CABINET A REPORT ON HIS TALKS IN THE AMERICAN CAPITAL. LET ME BRIEFLY SUMMARIZE HIS REPORT IN A FEW POINTS:

AS REGARDS THE QUESTION OF THE PRODUCTION OF THE NEUTRON WEAPON, THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN AUTONOMOUS - OR, IF YOU WISH - A SOVEREIGN DECISION OF THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP OF THE UNITED STATES. THIS HAS NOT CHANGED. THAT IS THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE UNITED STATES, AND WE HAVE ALWAYS SUPPORTED IT.

SECOND, AS OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED BY THE WHITE HOUSE YESTERDAY, A DECISION HAS NOT BEEN REACHED. CONSULTATIONS ON THIS MATTER WILL CONTINUE IN NATO. BECAUSE, AS IS GENERALLY KNOWN, IT IS A MATTER WHICH AFFECTS THE ENTIRE ALLIANCE AND IT IS NOT, AS HAS BEEN INCORRECTLY STATED HERE AND THERE, A (PURELY) GERMAN-AMERICAN QUESTION.

FINALLY, THE CHAIRMEN OF THE PARTIES AND OF THE BUNDESTAG PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS WILL BE INFORMED OF THE CURRENT STATE OF THE DISCUSSION OF THIS MATTER. MOREOVER, THE CHANCELLOR SPOKE WITH DR. KOHL A FEW DAYS AGO AND GAVE HIM SOME INFORMATION. WITHIN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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NEXT FEW DAYS HE WILL CONFER AGAIN WITH THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION AND OF COURSE WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPD, FORMER CHANCELLOR BRANDT, AS WELL AS WITH PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS WEHNER AND MISCHNICK. END TEXT.

3. AFTER READING THE ABOVE STATEMENT, BOELLING EMPHASIZED THAT GENSCHER'S TRIP TO WASHINGTON HAD BEEN PLANNED FOR SOME TIME, AND HE CAUTIONED AGAINST CONNECTING THE TRIP WITH ONLY ONE SUBJECT. HE POINTED OUT, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT GENSCHER HAD DISCUSSED AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST AT SOME LENGTH WITH OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON.

4. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, BOELLING DENIED THAT THERE WAS ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN THE DECISION PROCESS ON THE NEUTRON WEAPON AND THE FORTHCOMING BREZHNEV TRIP TO BONN. BOELLING SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT LIST OF ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION BREZHNEV WOULD BE BRINGING TO BONN. STOESEL

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